

From Unemployment to Entrepreneurship: Mahendranath's Journey to Self-Reliance

Name: Mahendranath Hansda

Age: 29

Village Name: Shyampur

GP: Simla-Dhanera

Block: Kashipur



Mahendranath Hansda, a youth from Shyampur village, lives with his father, mother, and brother — a family of four members. His mother has been associated with the project “Transforming Lives Through Climate Adaptive Livelihoods” since 2023.

Initially, the family had no stable source of income and was solely dependent on agriculture. However, being residents of a semi-arid and drought-prone region like

Purulia, they often faced major cultivation losses. To mitigate these agricultural challenges and enhance their livelihood through diversified income sources and climate-resilient techniques, they joined the DRCSC-led group and received training on sustainable agricultural practices.

After completing his Higher Secondary education, Mahendra remained unemployed for a long period and had planned to migrate to another district or state for work, like many of his peers. Meanwhile, through his mother, who is a member of a DRCSC-led Self-Help Group (SHG), Mahendra learned about the youth entrepreneurship development training on livestock management. Seizing the opportunity, he participated in the training, where he gained knowledge on livestock feeding, shelter management, vaccination schedules, local remedies for livestock diseases, hygiene maintenance, and proper shed construction.

After completing the training, Mahendra built a small pig farm using bamboo and tiles. Impressed by his enthusiasm and initiative, DRCSC supported him with 3 piglets to help him establish his livestock-based enterprise and diversify his family's income. From these 3 pigs, the herd size increased to 3. He later sold 4 pigs, earning around ₹ 15,000, and currently maintains a herd of 5 pigs with an estimated market value of ₹ 50,000. He continues to follow regular vaccination and hygiene maintenance practices as learned during the training to prevent diseases.



Mahendra and his family expressed their sincere gratitude to DRCSC for guiding them and helping them develop a sustainable livelihood option. The income generated from livestock rearing has provided the family with financial stability, enabling them to invest in household improvements, while the surplus income is now being saved in the bank.